

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Robert J. DiStasio, et al.

Serial No. 10/015,408

Examiner James Smith

Filed: December 12, 2001

Group 3723

For: Removal Tool for Locking Nut, Bolt and Clip Systems and Assemblies

RESPONSE

**Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box Non-Fee Amendment**

Sir:

This is a response to the outstanding Office Action dated October 23, 2002 (Paper No. 5).

Please debit or credit Deposit Account No.03-1231 for any overpayments/underpayments. In the Office Action, the examiner requested election of a species.

The removal tool claimed in claim 1 (and dependent claims 2-6) is elected. The tool is generically shown in FIGS. 116, 117 and a modification is shown in FIGS. 92, 93. This tool works in conjunction with:

- (A) FIGS. 1-6, 8, 9, 11 (claim 3 is not FIGS. 8, 9, 11) [single tine design]
- (B) FIGS. 7, 10 [single tine depending from end plate]
- (C) FIGS. 12-22 [peripheral ring with depending tines]
- (D) FIGS. 23-35 [top hat, insert plus top hat, peripheral ring with protruding tines, box, pipe lock]
- (E-1) FIGS. 36-46 [clip locks]
- (E-2) FIGS. 42, 43 [clip locks hidden][uncertain whether removal tool would work with a hidden locking unit]